

specimens of this curious Nightjar only during March and July. Suspecting that these records might indicate a migration he has recently made a thorough study of the published records of the species and finds his surmise to be correct.

All the breeding records of *Cosmetornis* (September-January) are in southern Africa below the Equatorial forest, while all records from March to July are from the more or less open country north of the forest. We thus have a regular migration across the equator of a distinctly tropical bird, which is obviously different in origin from the great movement of migratory species in the north temperate and arctic regions.

As a possible incentive, Mr. Chapin suggests the great abundance of flying termites in the grasslands north of the forest from April to August. These "white ants" are eagerly devoured by the Nightjars which gather in large flocks to catch them. Mr. Chapin seems to have worked out his problem convincingly and his paper is one of much interest.—W. S.

Bangs on Birds from the Cayman Islands.¹—A complete collection of the resident birds of the three Cayman Islands, recently obtained by Mr. W. W. Brown and now the property of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, forms the basis of a paper by Mr. Bangs. Thirty-seven forms are listed of which *Amazona leucocephala hesternia* (p. 308), Cayman Brac, is described as new. Many notes on the plumage and relationship of the various species are given and a review of the races of *Tiaris olivacea*. The paper forms a valuable contribution to West Indian Ornithology.—W. S.

Cherrie on New South American Birds.²—Of the four hundred odd species of birds secured on the Roosevelt South American Expedition some naturally proved to be new, and these Mr. Cherrie has carefully described in the present paper. They are as follows: *Chatura chapmani viridipennis* (p. 183), Doze Octobre; *Celcus roosevelti* (p. 183), Tapirapoan; *Myrmotherula kermi* (p. 184), Barão Melgaco; *Rhopoterpe torquata tragicus* (p. 184), Rio Roosevelt; *Synallaxis rufogularis*, (p. 185), Barão Melgaco; *Phacellodomus ruber rubicula* (p. 186), San Lorenzo River; *Philydor erythrocerus lyra* (p. 186), Rio Roosevelt; *Xiphocolaptes major saturatus* (p. 187), and *Myiopagis viridicata rondoni* (p. 188), Urucum near Corumba; *Sporophila hypoleuca clara* (p. 188), San Lorenzo River — all from Matto Grosso, Brazil.

Picolaptes angustirostris prcdatus (p. 187), Concepcion del Uruguay; *Myosiza manimbe nigrostriata* (p. 189), Rio Negro, Paraguayan Chaco; and *Thraupis palmarum duvida* (p. 90), Rio Roosevelt, Amazonia.

¹ A Collection of Birds from the Cayman Islands. By Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., Vol. LX, No. 7, pp. 303-320. March, 1916.

² Some apparently undescribed Birds from the Collection of the Roosevelt South American Expedition. By George K. Cherrie. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXV, Art. VII, pp. 183-190. May 20, 1916.

The supplementary expedition which will shortly be in the field is expected to gather much additional information on the birds of this region for incorporation in the final report of the Roosevelt Expedition.— W. S.

Todd on New Neotropical Birds.¹— In two recent papers Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd describes twenty-two new forms of neotropical birds. Eleven of these are from Colombia, seven from Bolivia, two from Argentina and one each from Venezuela and the Isle of Pines. The descriptions are very brief, but where size is used as a differential character measurements of the type specimens are always given.— W. S.

Forbush on The Domestic Cat.²— In 'Notes and News' of 'The Auk,' 1914, p. 145, attention was called to the seriousness of the cat problem and in the two years that have elapsed since then the destruction of wild birds, especially nestlings, by stray cats and uncontrolled pets has brought the question squarely before thousands of bird students, who have so carefully watched and protected broods of young in the nest, only to see them fall prey to the neighbor's pet cat. Mr. Forbush's timely 'bulletin' covers all phases of this subject — the history and characteristics of the cat; numbers of cats, food of cats, economic value and means of controlling the cat.

His evidence seems to show pretty conclusively that traps are a far better check on rats and mice than cats are. This reduces the excuses for keeping cats to the desire for a pet or companion, and for such purposes the public should compel the cat owners to have their pets licensed and kept strictly on their own property. This is insisted on in the case of dogs and the sooner it is done with cats the better. The constantly increasing army of bird lovers who will not tolerate roving cats will find a mine of information in Mr. Forbush's report which can be spread broadcast with profit.— W. S.

The Official List of Generic Names.³— Systematic Zoölogists will welcome any action that makes for uniformity and stability in nomenclature, and consequently will heartily endorse the attempt of the International Commission to establish an "official" list of genera. The plan is to invite advisory committees in various branches of zoölogy to submit lists of generic names which they agree are valid under the Code and which

¹ Preliminary Diagnoses of Apparently New South American Birds. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. XXVIII, pp. 79-82. April 13, 1915.

Preliminary Diagnoses of Seven Apparently New Neotropical Birds. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. XXVIII, pp. 169-170. November 29, 1915.

² The Domestic Cat. Bird Killer, Mouser and Destroyer of Wild Life. Means of Utilizing and Controlling It. By Edward Howe Forbush, State Ornithologist. Economic Biology — Bulletin No. 2. Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, pp. 1-112. 1916.

³ Opinions Rendered by the International Commission on Zoölogical Nomenclature. Opinion 67. One Hundred and Two Birds Names Placed in the Official List of Generic Names. Smithsonian Inst. Publ. 2409, pp. 177-182. April, 1916.